

Title II Project Application
Medford District Resource Advisory Committee

1. **Project Number** (Assigned by federal unit): 118-413 **AMOUNT REQUESTED- \$31,673**
2. **Project Name:** Interior Douglas County Gorse Control 3. **County:** Douglas
4. **Project Sponsor:** Douglas SWCD 5. **Date:** April 15, 2003
6. **Sponsors Phone #:** 541-957-5061
7. **Sponsor's E-mail:** walter-gayner@or.nacdn.net.org
8. **Project Location** (attach project area maps showing general and specific locations of project.)

a. 4th Field Watershed Name and HUC #(if known): South Umpqua River
17100302

b. 5th Field Watershed Name and HUC #(if known): Multiple

c. Legal Location: Area within Medford BLM and Douglas County

Township	<u>31S</u>	Range	<u>3-9</u>	Section(s)	<u>Multiple</u>
Township	<u>32S</u>	Range	<u>3-9</u>	Section(s)	<u>Multiple</u>
Township	<u>33S</u>	Range	<u>3-9</u>	Section(s)	<u>Multiple</u>
Township	<u></u>	Range	<u></u>	Section(s)	<u></u>
Township	<u></u>	Range	<u></u>	Section(s)	<u></u>
Township	<u></u>	Range	<u></u>	Section(s)	<u></u>
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Township	<u></u>	Range	<u></u>	Section(s)	<u></u>
Township	<u></u>	Range	<u></u>	Section(s)	<u></u>

d. BLM District Medford e. BLM Resource Area Glendale
f. National Forest g. Forest Service District

h. State / Private / other lands involved? Yes No

9. Statement of Project Goals and Objectives:

To accurately prioritize noxious weed control efforts, Douglas SWCD asked agency and private land representatives in the area to list, in order of importance, which noxious weeds they would like to see control efforts focused on. BLM, ODA, USFS, Douglas Forest Protection Association, ODF, and OSU Extension were included. The most common, highest ranking species was gorse.

Gorse is a highly undesirable plant that is a significant fuel risk for wildfires, has no value as a forage for wildlife or livestock, is very poor habitat for native wildlife, and cannot be easily crossed by humans on foot, horseback, or any other method.

The fire that destroyed the city of Bandon in 1936 was fueled by all the gorse in the area. Because of its high oil content, it is extremely difficult to control once ignited.

Interior Douglas County has a large number of isolated infestations of gorse and possibly many more unknown sites. Many different organizations are making individual efforts to control some of these sites. There is no "big picture" effort to look at interior Douglas County as a whole. ODA is working on some sites. BLM is monitoring others. Douglas SWCD is working on a few sites. Douglas Forest Protective

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Association is working with Douglas SWCD on a large site. However, there is currently no one coordinating the work as a centralized unit. Given the fact that a project of this size is a major undertaking and it has already stretched the capacities of many dedicated people far beyond their normal duties, it serves to reason that a multi-agency coordinating effort is needed.

BLM has a "zero tolerance" policy on gorse for all sites that are known. In the case of the Forest Service, they have no known active sites and are therefore interested in outbreak prevention. However, managers of large land areas may not be aware of all infested sites. The BLM is also working on the international effort to develop and test biological controls for broom species (which includes gorse).

There are sites that consist of a few plants all the way up to thick infestations that blanket acres of land. It is a "T" list species in Oregon and Douglas County.

Elk Valley (down in the Port Orford area) has lost about 10,000 acres of habitat to gorse. There are no natural meadows left. Native riparian vegetation has been replaced. The gorse plants extend from conifer forest to water's edge.

Douglas SWCD is currently leading the projects covering all the work focused on Portuguese broom as well as Distaff thistle in Douglas County. These are multi-year, multi-agency, multi-landowner projects that have all the same components as the proposed project. This project for gorse will be managed similarly and is expected to be as successful as the other two.

10. Project Description: (Provide concise description of project and attach map.)

The project proposes to:

- A. Call together active agency and organization representatives that are interested in controlling this species and develop a "big picture" plan. Experts in gorse control from ODA, ODF, BLM, etc. will be approached to recommend control methods. In addition, determine necessary steps and most efficient method to address ESA and NEPA issues since the project area is very large.
- B. Gather all existing data about known and historic sites and put them into a database that meets standards for data quality control. Share this database with ODA, BLM, USFS and any other interested party.
- C. Start identifying new sites and put them into the same database. Share that data.
- D. At the same time, implement the control plan for known sites (i.e. accomplish on-the-ground progress).
- E. Evaluate the need for restoration work in the areas being treated. Incorporate restoration in on-the-ground proposals when appropriate. In cases where existing native vegetation will fill in, there may be no need for enhancement.
- F. Revisit the "big picture" plan once the majority of information has been collected.
- G. Develop a control plan prioritization strategy for the "new" sites.
- H. Implement the control plan on "new" sites (i.e. accomplish on-the-ground progress).
- I. Develop a maintenance plan for the sites needing follow-up work.
- J. Perform follow-up work on sites needing additional treatments or locations treated in the past.
- K. Pursue additional funding as needed.

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11. Coordination of this project with other related project(s) on adjacent lands?

Yes No If yes, then describe.

This "big picture" project will incorporate many other sites and activities that are already occurring as individual projects. These sites are being treated by different organizations and communication amongst the "players" is lacking. This will resolve the issue.

12. How does proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation? [Sec. 203(b)(1)]

Improves maintenance of existing infrastructure. [Sec. 2(b)]

Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems. [Sec. 2(b)]

Restores and improves land health. [Sec. 2(b)]

Restores water quality. [Sec. 2(b)]

13. Project Type (*check one*) [Sec. 203(b)(1)]

Road Maintenance [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)]

Trail Maintenance [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)]

Road Decommission/Obliteration [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)]

Trail Obliteration [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)]

Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify): _____ [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)]

Soil Productivity Improvement [Sec. 2(b)(2)(B)]

Forest Health Improvement [Sec. 2(b)(2)(C)]

Watershed Restoration & Mntc. [Sec. 2(b)(2)(D)]

Wildlife Habitat Restoration [Sec. 2(b)(2)(E)]

Fish Habitat Restoration [Sec. 2(b)(2)(E)]

Control of Noxious Weeds [Sec. 2(b)(2)(F)]

Reestablish Native Species [Sec. 2(b)(2)(G)]

Other Project Type (specify) [Sec. 2(b)(2)]: _____

14. Measure of Project Accomplishments/Expected Outcomes [Sec. 203(b)(5)]

(*Use workload measures used for the budget process*)

a. Total Acres: To Be Determined

b. Total Miles: N/A

c. No. Structures: _____

d. Estimated People Reached (for environmental education projects): _____

e. No. of Laborer Days: 513

f. Other (specify): _____

g. **Program Element:** _____

15. Duration of Project and Estimated Completion Date [Sec. 203(b)(2)]:

This project will start as soon as funding is secured and be completed by 9/30/05.

16. Target Species (plants/wildlife etc.) Benefited: (if applicable)

This type of work is beneficial to all native plant and animal species. Gorse can out-compete all other vegetation in various ecosystems including riparian areas, meadows, oak savanna, and conifer forests.

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17. How will cooperative relationships among people that use federal lands be improved? [Sec. 2(b)(3)]

Weed control strategies are a common topic for discussion with federal land users like Oregon Equestrian Trails, Oregon Hunters Association and other outdoor recreationists. These user groups are interested in knowing how they can minimize their impact on the resource and protect it from future problems.

The District discusses/displays weed issues in our quarterly newsletter, at the booth at the Douglas County Fair, at the Sportsman's Show, at the annual Earth Day event at the Douglas County Fairgrounds, and other events.

18. How is this project in the best public interest? [Sec. 203(b)(7)] **Identify benefits to communities?**

Preventing weed spread is in everyone's best interest. Like water quality and fish migration, weeds are an issue that crosses ownership boundaries.

Local contractors will be used for the control work whenever possible. Coordination will be done by members of the local work force.

In addition, protecting productive resources like agriculture and forest lands is also good for local communities.

19. How does project benefit federal lands/resources?

A weed control strategy that only addresses public **or** private lands is destined to fail. Much of the control efforts needed are on private lands. Federal land managers usually have funding and expertise to treat their lands. However, they may not have time. It is also essential that private landowners have the resources available to complete their part of the work.

Like the work being coordinated by Douglas SWCD on Portuguese broom, there is an "economy of scale" that makes one large project far less expensive than many smaller projects. It also increases the likelihood of "big picture" success if the overall project has a designated leader.

BLM and Forest Service (and the lands they manage) could benefit from having a lead organization that will coordinate activities on both public and private land to insure overall success.

20. Status of Project Planning

a. NEPA Complete:	Yes	No	
b. If No, give est. date of completion: NEPA requirements will be determined after the initial survey is complete. This will be done before treatments start on 4/1/04.			
c. NMFS Sec. 7 ESA Consultation Complete:	Yes	No	Not Applicable
d. USFWS Sec. 7 ESA Consultation Complete:	Yes	No	Not Applicable
e. Survey & Manage Complete:	Yes	No	Not Applicable
f. DSL/ODFW* Permits Obtained:	Yes	No	Not Applicable
g. DLS/COE* 404 Fill/Removal Permit Obtained:	Yes	No	Not Applicable
h. SHPO* Concurrence Received:	Yes	No	Not Applicable
i. Project Design(s) Completed:	Yes	No	Not Applicable

* DSL = Dept. of State Lands, ODFW = Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, COE = Army Corps of Engineers, SHPO = State Historic Preservation Officer

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21. Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment

Contract

County Workforce

Other (specify): Douglas SWCD staff

Federal Workforce

Volunteers

22. Will the Project Generate Merchantable Materials? (Sec. 204(e)(3))

Yes No This project focuses on removal of an undesirable species that has no other value.

23. Anticipated Project Costs [Sec. 203(b)(3)]

a. Total County Title II Funds Requested: \$ 31,673

b. Is this a multi-year funding request? XXYes No If yes, then display by fiscal year

e. FY04 Request: \$ 31,673 See attached Budget

f. FY05 Request: \$ 15,000

g. FY06 Request: \$ _____

Item	Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution [Sec. 203(b)(4)]	Requested County Title II Contribution [Sec. 203(b)(4)]	Other Contributions [Sec. 203(b)(4)]	Total Available Funds
24. Field Work & Site Surveys		1,181		
25. NEPA & Sec.7 ESA Consultation				
26. Permit Acquisition				
27. Project Design & Engineering				
28. Contract Preparation				
29. Contract Administration		4306		
30. Contract Cost				
31. Workforce Cost		23,801		
32. Materials & Supplies		2,385		
33. Monitoring				
34. Other				
35. Project Subtotal				
36. Indirect Costs (Overhead) (per year for multiple year projects)				
37. Total Cost Estimate		\$31,673		

38. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding in Column C. Above [Sec. 203(b)(4)]

See attached budget breakdown.

Funding has been, or will be, requested from Oregon State Weed Board, Roseburg BLM RAC, and Rogue-Umpqua RAC.

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39. Monitoring Plan (Sec.203 (b)(6))

- a. What measures or evaluations will be made to determine how well the proposed project meets the desired ecological conditions ? [Sec. 203(b)(6)] Who will be responsible for this monitoring item?**

Douglas SWCD will set project benchmarks and monitor effectiveness of the operation. Some of the most important issues on the scorecard will be plants/sites/acres identified, sites treated, the method of treatment, when follow-up treatment will be needed, and potential restoration needs.

- b. How will the project be evaluated to determine how well the proposed project contributes towards local employment and/or training opportunities, including summer youth jobs programs such as the Youth Conservation Corps? [Sec. 203(b)(6)] Who will be responsible for this monitoring item?**

Because of the use of herbicide and power saws, it is not likely that youth crews will be used. Gorse is particularly challenging because of its physical characteristics and more experienced people will be used. The sizable portion of the budget for contracted services is a good indicator of how much funding will go towards employment. Douglas SWCD will be responsible for ensuring these goals are met.

- c. What methods and measures of evaluation will be established to determine how well the proposed project improves the use of, or added value to, any products removed from National Forest System lands consistent with the purposes of this Act? [Sec. 203(b)(6) and Sec. 204(e)(3)] Who will be responsible for this monitoring item?**

This project will have no impact on use of products from the National Forest System.

- d. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Table 1, Item 33)**

Amount: \$31,671